

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 11036 160908Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 /021 W
-----094617 161254Z /45
R 160843Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8891

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE/TRADE STUDY
GROUP: AUTOMOBILES

REF: (A) TOKYO 10001, (B) STATE 119503

SUMMARY: EMBASSY, ACCJ AND U.S. AUTO MANUFACTURER REPS
PLAN TO PURSUE AUTO IMPORT PROBLEMS DIRECTLY WITH MOT
AND MOF. IF THIS APPROACH IS UNSUCCESSFUL, WE WOULD
CONSIDER RAISING ISSUE IN THE TFC, ASSUMING THE U.S.
MANUFACTURERS CONTINUE TO BELIEVE SUCH ACTION WILL NOT
HARM THEIR EVERYDAY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE
TRANSPORT MINISTRY. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY, ACCJ AND U.S. MOTOR INDUSTRY REPS HAVE
AGREED FIRST TO ATTEMPT TO PURSUE AUTO IMPORT PROBLEMS
RAISED IN ACCJ TSG AUTO PAPER DIRECTLY WITH MOT. IN
SUPPORT OF THIS APPROACH, ECMIN PLANS TO MEET ON JUNE 22,
VERY INFORMALLY, WITH MOT ROAD TRANSPORT DIR GEN
NAKAMURA TO DISCUSS WITH HIM BROADER SUBJECT OF
FACILITATING US/JAPAN TRADE, ELIMINATING REAL OR
PERCEIVED BARRIERS TO SUCH, ETC. WE ARE NOT OVERLY
SANGUINE THAT OUR APPROACH WILL BE SUCCESSFUL, SINCE
EACH SECTION OF THE JAPANESE BUREAUCRACY TENDS TO FOCUS
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 11036 160908Z

ON ITS OWN SPECIALTY AND THE ROAD TRANSPORT BUREAU'S
FOCUS IS CLEARLY ON FLAWLESS COMPLIANCE WITH JAPAN'S
AUTO POLLUTION AND SAFETY STANDARDS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE
THE EFFORT IS WORTH A TRY. FOLLOWING THIS MEETING, U.S.
INDUSTRY REPS, ACCJ AND EMBOFF WILL FOLLOW-UP DIRECTLY
WITH WORKING LEVEL OF MOT.

2. SINCE TWO OF THE INDUSTRY'S FOUR GENERAL COMPLAINTS

INVOLVE JAPANESE TAXATION STRUCTURE, WE PLAN TO FOLLOW THE SAME FORMAT IN MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY.

3. IF THIS TYPE OF DIRECT APPROACH DOES NOT WORK, WE WILL PROBABLY REFER MATTER TO THE TFC FOR CONSIDERATION. THIS ACTION WOULD SERVE TO FORMALIZE OUR COMPLAINT. U.S. AUTO INDUSTRY REPS ARE PREPARING CONTINGENCY PAPER FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. DURING MAY 30 TSG SESSION, MITI REP PRESENTED INFORMAL REPORT OUTLINING MEASURES U.S. MANUFACTURERS COULD TAKE HERE TO EXPAND BOTH AUTO EXPORTS AND EXPORT OF AUTO PARTS TO JAPAN; E.G., STRENGTHEN SALES NETWORK, ETC. ALTHOUGH REPORT CONTAINED LITTLE NEW TO THOSE ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH FIELD (INFORMATION RE AUTO PARTS, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS ALREADY REPORTED IN TOKYO A-070), IT WAS PROBABLY EDUCATIONAL TO OTHER TSG MEMBERS PRESENT WHO ARE NOT CLOSELY CONNECTED TO AUTOMOTIVE FIELD. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF MITI PRESENTATION POUCHED TO USDOC BIEPR/OCA AND STATE EA/EP AND BEING FORWARDED UNDER AIRGRAM ALSO.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY PLANS TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE AUTO IMPORT ISSUES BOTH DIRECTLY WITH MOT AND MOF AS NEXT STEP IN TSG AUTO STUDY PROCESS AND THROUGH TFC, IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 11036 160908Z

NECESSARY, SO LONG AS U.S. MANUFACTURERS DO NOT FEEL THIS WOULD BE INIMICAL TO THEIR BEST INTERESTS.

MANSFIELD

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